

earlier works of Félix Luna might well expect it to be the final word on the life and politics of Hipólito Yrigoyen. It is not.

University of Iowa

PETER SNOW

Alvear. By FÉLIX LUNA. Buenos Aires, 1958. Libros Argentinos. Pp. 332. Paper. \$2.50.

Marcelo Torcuato de Alvear (1868-1942) was an Argentine aristocrat who early joined the Radicals. For many years and even while president of the republic (1922-1928) his politics were a matter of *noblesse oblige*, and he often lived in France between political forays. Luna sheds no new light on those years. He treats them briefly so as to focus on Alvear's more serious activities in trying to lead the Radicals back to power after Justo José de Uruburu's coup of 1930. Alvear failed, says Luna, because he could never see national affairs other than superficially, and because neither he nor anyone else was able to draw the broken party back together again. The book has a modicum of research in it and reflects a good knowledge of blow-by-blow politics. Luna's postulates are probably sound: for example, that the Radicals constantly fell short during the 1930s and early 1940s because they made no meaningful appeal to the people but, instead, were concentrating on just the thing which the dictators could always thwart, a free access to the polls. The chief difficulty with this book is that it tends to see people in two dimensions, and political groupings without contexts or relationships. Thus for those of us who did not live in Argentina during the 1920s and 1930s this book has only limited value.

Occidental College

CLIFTON B. KROEBER

Independence or Death! The Story of the Paraguayan War. By CHARLES J. KOLINSKI. Gainesville, 1965. University of Florida Press. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 236. \$6.50.

The most disastrous of all Latin American wars has been the most neglected. True, Brazilian and Argentine historians have written valuable accounts of the Paraguayan War, and Uruguayan scholars have produced a few good studies. But no Paraguayan historian, with the possible exception of the expatriate Arturo Rebaudi, has yet seen fit to write a scholarly treatise of the conflict that all but annihilated his country. Historians in countries other than the four combatants in the War of the Triple Alliance also have failed to exploit this potentially rich field.

To the very small and slowly growing group of Paraguayanists in the United States, Charles Kolinski first gained admittance with an article on the death of Francisco Solano López. This article probably was inspired by his major effort, a doctoral dissertation on the Paraguayan War, now published by the University of Florida Press.

This volume is especially welcome because it is the first comprehensive history of the war in English. Multivolume histories in Spanish, Portuguese, and German lack a desirable balance: invariably they neglect Paraguay and place too much emphasis on one of the other combatants. Here, indeed, is a major virtue of Kolinski's work. His is a balanced narrative, generally well proportioned among the many facets that demand attention. Kolinski sets the stage, summarizes causes, then provides sketches of López, Dom Pedro, Mitre, Flores, and Urquiza. He returns frequently to the Marshal and the Emperor as the narrative progresses. A very good chapter describes the armed forces of the combatants, with special attention to organization, training, leadership, and materiel.

Although Kolinski is at his best in these first chapters, the allotment of space appears to be uneven. The major battles deserve more attention. This weakness is at least partially remedied by constant reminders of what was going on in Brazil and Argentina, behind the lines in Paraguay, and in the rear areas of the allied armies. In an epilogue the author succinctly summarizes effects of the war on the combatants and properly ascribes to the conflict an important role in the eventual overthrow of Pedro II.

A major weakness of this dissertation is the author's dependence entirely upon published materials. Archival sources are available. The maps are generally inadequate, and one is attributed to "Charles A. Wilburn"! An otherwise attractive volume is marred by careless proofreading. Occasionally the author labors to produce dramatic effects; the story itself is so tragic that no literary devices are needed.

Kolinski is to be congratulated, however, on his mastery of an extremely complicated subject. He has produced a fast-moving and fascinating narrative that must be accorded a prominent place in the historiography of the war.

Miami University

HARRIS GAYLORD WARREN

Contribución a la historia de la sátira política en el Uruguay, 1897-1904. By ALFONSO CERDA CATALÁN. Montevideo, 1965. Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. En-